

# The Times-Dispatch

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1914.

**THE TIMES-DISPATCH and Breakfast**  
are served together with unfailing regularity in the Best Homes of Richmond.  
Is your morning program complete?

New Reserve Bank Directors

ELECTION by the Federal Reserve Board of Class C directors of the Federal reserve bank for the Richmond district will be followed immediately, it is to be assumed, by formal organization. That result will be welcomed by financial interests and the general public, and if it suffices incidentally to still Baltimore's clamor over her rejection as the site of the bank, it will be reason for additional congratulation.

Richmond will not begrudge to Baltimore the appointment of a son of the Maryland metropolis, William Ingle, as revenue agent and chairman of the board. Mr. Ingle is a banker of distinguished abilities and wide experience, and his services will contribute largely to the bank's success. This city is worthily represented in the appointment of James A. Moncure as deputy agent and vice-chairman.

It is time the new currency law was placed in full operation—high time when the disturbed financial situation and business depression produced by the war are considered. There should be, and probably will be, no delay in organization. Mr. Ingle and Mr. Moncure are the sort of men who get things done, and they have a great work before them.

Going Back to Mexico

PERHAPS one of the best signs of peace in Mexico is that the members of the Madero family are going back. They were driven out of Monterrey by the revolution which took the Little Idealist, and now they are going home, confident in their safety. There is no person who has read Mexican history who will not hope for the full realization of their dreams, for they have suffered enough. But should their return actually stir up dead issues, no reader of history would be at all surprised.

It might have been better for the Maderos to wait a while. Certainly no other advice could be honestly given to Huerta!

War Tax on Moving Pictures

A PROTEST has arisen from moving picture managers against the proposed war tax of \$100. The smaller ones say they cannot afford it. There is perhaps justice in the claim that the tax should be graded according to earnings, and the greater load placed on those enterprises showing the greater earnings.

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ability of a high order and wide experience in affairs. It is true there are some Congressmen who are not worth \$75 a year to the government, but the membership of the House includes a great number of able and efficient public servants.

Doubtless there are places in the government service which are more ornamental than useful, and which are given as rewards for political service. These, however, are few in number in proportion to the enormous business transacted by the national government. Anybody conversant with very large private corporations is aware that in them ornamental officials are paid high salaries, although it is widely accepted as true that such a condition exists nowhere outside of governmental organization.

**War and the Transformation of America**

AS soon as the European war emerges from the nightmare of possibilities into an actuality, the United States produced a myriad of prophets and seers. Happily, these gifted ones have restricted themselves to the utterance of forecasts of the effects of the war on the United States, and have not attempted to found new sects.

However, we learn, on more or less unimpeachable prophetic authority, that the United States is to supplant Paris as the leader in women's fashions; Germany in the production of music and in the training of singers, and London as the banking centre of the world.

This is what a commercial traveler might call a "large order." It may never be booked. Wars that stop short of extermination do not destroy the genius of a people. Paris was to the rest of the world pretty much the same after Waterloo as she was before it. In 1860 she was no more a queen in her own right than she was after that 1870, which the German general staff was so sure would be repeated in 1914. The genius of the German people expressed itself in philosophy and music quite as much when there was no German empire, as after Bismarck and Von Moltke had created it. And London has been a commercial and banking centre for a long period of years.

It is about as certain as anything mundane can be that the United States will derive large benefits from this war that now ravages Europe like a pestilence, but that it will become overnight the world centre of art, music, fashion, finance and commerce and hold an undisputed supremacy in all, as some of the soothsayers would have us believe, sounds less like a sober and serious probability than an iridescent dream. So far as benefits are concerned, we are not going to attain those unless we fight for them, and that we have already suffered many inconveniences and serious losses and some actual hardships is a painfully accomplished fact.

**Municipal Ownership of Electric Plants**

FIGURES that do not convey a very high tribute to the efficiency and economy of municipally owned electric light and power plants, as contrasted with those operated under private ownership, are contained in a recent bulletin of the Bureau of the Census. These figures certainly will add no substance to the arguments nor strength to the hopes of those who favor the extension of government and municipal ownership to every class of public utilities.

One thing the statistics do reveal, however, despite their discouraging showing in other respects, is the growing popularity of municipal control. In the ten years from 1902 to 1912 the number of commercial stations increased from 2,895 to 3,659, or 26.4 per cent, while the number of municipal stations increased from 815 to 1,562, or 91.7 per cent.

An analysis of the bulletin that appears in the Railway Age Gazette shows that "with three times the percentage of increase in numbers the municipal plants increased both their income and their output in less proportion than the commercial plants and had an increase of 22.2 per cent in expenses to produce an increase of 17.1 per cent in output, while the commercial stations, with only a slightly greater increase in expenses, obtained over twice the increase in output." This is not the kind of efficiency that is promised by advocates of government ownership.

The Federal gunboat *Lebanon*, flying a flag of truce, came into Charleston harbor yesterday morning, and was met by one of our boats. The admiral's leg was badly fractured, but it is believed he will recover the use of the limb. All of our officers and men carried to Pensacola are being kindly treated.

It is difficult, however much we may favor the general principle, to escape that conclusion.

The Farmer's Golden Opportunity

TWO great opportunities, sprung from Europe's devastating war, confront the farmers of Virginia and the South—the raising of live stock of all kinds, but especially horses and mules, and the production of vegetable foodstuffs.

Europe's agricultural industries are paralyzed, and a great percentage of the crops reaching maturity in the countries now at war has not been harvested for the use of the inhabitants. In France and Belgium, the actual theatre of major operations, this portion is said to reach 50 per cent, and in Austria-Hungary, Serbia and Russia the loss is scarcely less. Germany and Great Britain and Ireland also have suffered.

Meantime, in the great battles west and east, thousands of horses are being killed every day.

While the war goes on the demand of the intelligent powers for foodstuffs and horses will be incessant, and the demand will not be lessened appreciably by a treaty of peace. The American farmers who have food to sell will find always a ready market. It is a golden opportunity, realization of which is less than a year deferred.

Government Officials Not Overpaid

THE suggestion of Senator Shepard, of Texas, that the salaries of government officials be reduced, owing to the war's effect on national finances, may not have been seriously intended. It does, however, give additional currency to the prevalent notion that government officials are overpaid. The fact is, they are not. Members of the Cabinet are ridiculously underpaid, considering their responsibilities. If it were not for the great honor attached to the offices, first-rate men would assuredly not be tempted by the money rewards.

So, too, with practically all the government officials, as differentiated from government employees, and even among the latter are many grades that are pitifully overpaid for scanty salaries. It is the fashion to look on the recipient of a government salary as a man that gets "easy money." Particularly is this the case with members of Congress, who are paid \$7,500 a year, in return for which they give in these latter days practically all their time, and have calls on their salaries which they must answer rather generously if they wish to retain any political strength among their constituents. In many cases they bring to the service of the nation

the great German liner *Vaterland* has been attached to satisfy a judgment, from which she may appeal. The allies hope that its namesake will be called upon to satisfy an unanswerable one.

The German Chancellor says that his Empire has full confidence in the sense of justice of the American people, wherein he differs from Herman Ridder & Co.

As the Germans have unavoidably postponed their intended visit, the petite Parisians have sent men and artillery to entertain them.

Russians will levy war indemnities upon conquered Austrian towns. The chickens are coming close to home.

The fact that Irvin S. Cobb, the humorist, is being held by the Germans might be called a corn on the cob.

T. R. declares that ex-Beveridge is engaged with wings and a halo. And Albert J. admits it.

Queer thing is that they still refer to ambassadors as diplomatic representatives.

This war ought to stimulate pilgrimages to historical ruins of Europe.

## SONGS AND SAWS

### In Mexico.

Says Villa to Carranza:  
"Why don't you take a trip?  
You pain me; you annoy me much.  
Let me pick out your skin.  
There's lots of fun in Europe now.  
And lots of wine to sap."

And Carranza to Villa says:  
"The same, my buck, to you.  
You bore me here, but if you'll sail  
I'll bear you fond and true.  
Just think what scrapping you could find  
Across the ocean blue."

And so two patriots debate  
The question of the hour;  
Which is which take the spoils of war  
And robble up the power.

### Uncle Zach's Philosophy.

He has way to keep very nose outer under  
Telles business am to mine you own. Ef  
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I'll bear you fond and true.

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These Russian troops have eluded the censor again passed through England and are on the firing line in France. Whether they actually are there or not, they have furnished at any rate one of the most interesting problems that war critics on this side of the water have had to settle. And they have settled it—both ways—a good many hundreds of times.

### Harpies.

War's sorrows fill every man's heart.  
War dramatis on every man's lips.  
We mourn for the brave lads who fall  
In the trenches or sink with the ships  
But right at the top of our woes—  
Most painful and hardest to bear,  
Are the tales that are told of their foes  
By the "heroes" who never were there.

They never were able to fight,  
Too delicate they seem to stand  
The terrors of battle or flight,  
The perils of ocean or land,  
But they know very well how to talk  
They slander and lie and invent,  
And through them new horrors now stalk  
Where the force of the battle was spent.

—The Tattler.

### War News Fifty Years Ago

From the Richmond Dispatch, Oct. 1, 1864

There was more than the usual quiet in front of Petersburg yesterday, due to the firing on the left, some armament on the right and the usual exchange of compliments between the sharpshooters on the centre constituted the events of the day. It looks as if General Grant is resting up from his flag on the north side of the James River, and the failure of the enterprise which the Northern papers have been telling us would astonish the world.

We have private reports to the effect that Colonel F. T. Munford, commanding Wickham's brigade of cavalry, attacked a whole division of the enemy in Waynesboro on Wednesday last, and after a sharp encounter drove them from the town in the direction of Staunton.

Two hundred Federal prisoners captured on the north of James River reached the city last evening and were given quarters in Libby. Among them were eighty-five negroes who were captured yesterday in the assault upon Fort Lee.

A telegram from Goldsboro, N. C., says that yellow fever has broken out in violent form in the town of Newbern, and that upwards of sixty Federal soldiers have died from it.

The long drawn-out siege of Charleston, S. C., is still going on, and Sunday last the Federal fired eighty-six shots into the city, which did very little damage. They also fired twenty-six shots on Fort Sumter.

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